

107TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. RES. 275

Expressing the sense of the Senate that the United States should renew its commitment to the world's mothers and children by increasing funding for basic child survival and maternal health programs of the United States Agency for International Development, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 23, 2002

Mr. SMITH of Oregon (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. CORZINE) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

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# RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Senate that the United States should renew its commitment to the world's mothers and children by increasing funding for basic child survival and maternal health programs of the United States Agency for International Development, and for other purposes.

Whereas 10 years ago at the World Summit for Children, the United States joined with 159 other governments to commit the world to supporting efforts that reduce infant and maternal mortality, child malnutrition, and illiteracy;

Whereas more than 11,000,000 children die before the age of 5 (30,500 children every day) due to preventable infec-

tious diseases, including pneumonia, diarrhea, measles, malaria, and malnutrition;

Whereas more than a quarter of the world's children are malnourished, which hinders their ability to learn and thrive;

Whereas over 500,000 women who die every year during pregnancy and childbirth could be saved by low-tech, low-cost interventions;

Whereas research has found that the health of a child and his or her mother is closely intertwined and good maternal health is essential for the survival of both mothers and children;

Whereas studies have shown that high maternal and child mortality are directly correlated with social and political instability;

Whereas the number of women of reproductive age in less developed countries will grow by 34 percent in the next 20 years, making the need to improve health care services for women and their children even more important;

Whereas past evidence has shown that programs to improve child survival do work, for instance, in the past 8 years, the United States Agency for International Development child survival programs have significantly contributed to a 10 percent reduction in infant mortality rates worldwide;

Whereas while research has shown that maternal deaths during pregnancy and childbirth could be easily prevented, the number of women who die as mothers has not decreased in 10 years due to the lack of additional resources to address the problem;

Whereas the world has been able to reduce maternal mortality in the developed world, the disparity between developed and developing countries continues to grow;

Whereas, according to the World Health Organization, the lifetime risk of dying from pregnancy-related complications or during childbirth in developing countries is 1 in 48, in developed countries the ratio is 1 in 1,800, and the risk is even greater in some sub-Saharan African countries where 1 in every 14 girls entering adolescence will die from maternal causes before completing her child-bearing years; and

Whereas according to a World Health Organization report, between \$27,000,000,000 and \$38,000,000,000 will be needed in 2007 and 2015, respectively, to provide the necessary health interventions to those living in low-income countries: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

2               (1) child survival and maternal health programs  
3       supported by the United States Agency for Inter-  
4       national Development have and will make a dif-  
5       ference in the lives of mothers and children in the  
6       developing world;

7               (2) an increased commitment to improving the  
8       health of the world's mothers and children will have  
9       a long-term impact on the political, economic, and  
10      social stability of developing countries;

11              (3) the United States should take a lead in im-  
12      proving the lives of millions of people in the devel-

1       oping world through targeted, effective, and multi-  
2       faceted health and development programs; and

3               (4) the United States should renew its commit-  
4       ment to the world's mothers and children by increas-  
5       ing funding for basic child survival and maternal  
6       health programs of the United States Agency for  
7       International Development by at least \$500,000,000.

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